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Coal and Coke

Production of Coal

1. "The Six-Year Plan provides for a further development of coal production through a modernization of existing mines and opening of new pit-and open-cast mines. (This information dates through early June 1954.)

2. "Poland's reserves of coal are estimated at around 200,000 million tons (a more exact estimate from the year 1952 is 193,000 millions, but geological search and new discoveries are still proceeding). According to the present estimate, these reserves amount to 6,000 tons of coal per head of population, while within the present frontiers of Germany (west of Nysa) the reserves are only a maximum _,500 tons per head of population. In the Recovered Territories, Poland gained 23 coal mines, including seven in Upper Silesia and 16 in Lower Silesia. Adding to this figure the number of pre-World War II Polish mines, in 1952 Poland possessed 80 pit- and open-cast mines.

3. "The statistical table illustrating post-World War II production of coal in Poland is as follows:

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Year	Production in Tons	Number of Personnel Employed in Coal Mining	Export in Tons
1937	69,393,000		11,687,000
1939	65,536,000		-
1940	77,077,000		-
1941	76,343,000		-
1942	83,972,000		-
1943	91,362,000		-
1944	87,389,000		-
1945	27,366,000	129,600	6,136,000
1946	47,288,000	177,300	13,548,000
1947	59,130,000	193,400	17,891,000
1948	70,262,000	202,500	24,705,000
1949	74,081,000	198,000	26,770,000
1950	78,001,404	205,705	-
1953	88,700,000		

The target of Six-Year Plan is 100 million tons, including 8,400,000 tons of brown coal - mainly for the chemical industry.

New Mines and Improvement of the Existing Ones:

4. "The development of the mining industry in Poland does not proceed satisfactorily. Many delays and difficulties arise in the fulfillment of the Six-Year Plan. One of the difficulties is the fluctuation of the labor element which makes it impossible to complete full shifts in the mines. Another difficulty arises from the failure in fulfilling the plan of modernization of the mines and in assuring proper safety at work.

5. "Nevertheless, coal mining is undoubtedly on the way to development and already some new projects of increasing it after the Six-Year Plan is completed, are being announced. The speech of Minister Minc at the Second Congress of the Communist Party reveals that this development is dictated, in the first place, by the needs of the Soviet bloc; the minister stated that a steady development of coal production is necessitated by the needs of 'the countries importing our coal, and in the first place of the friendly countries of the camp of democracy and socialism'.

6. "The Six-Year Plan includes the completion of nine new mines, and the inauguration of the construction of two more which will be put into operation after 1955. These nine new mines are expected to produce nine million tons of coal per year. Besides in the old existing mines, 36 new levels are being constructed; these are to yield 15 million tons of coal in 1955.

7. "The general lines of the Six-Year Plan for the coal industry, according to an official Polish source, are set down in the following twelve points:

(a) to raise the production to 100 million tons per year.

(b) to replace the energy of compressed air with electric energy - in the mines without gas supply totally, in those with gas supply - partially.

(c) to assure a technical development of the mines during the next 25 years and to eliminate the existing narrow cross-sections.

(d) to rationalize the methods of exploitation front.

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(f) To mechanize preparatory and exploitation works with simultaneous improving of underground transport and concentration works. (In this way the general output is to be raised in 1955 to 1,700 kg per day. The mechanization of coal-loading in the mines will be raised to 65%.)

(g) To introduce technical installations aiming at the improvement of the conditions of work in the mine, and to assure an appropriate climate by improving ventilation.

(h) For a better speed and efficiency in preparatory works aiming to open access to coal seams; as to boring of the pits and digging of underground tunnels in the rock - appropriate arrangements will be made in the organization and mechanization, which will increase the efficiency in rock-works by 50% and speed up the opening of new mines and new levels. 6.4 million tons The speed of development of mining establishments on the surface will grow by 60%, and assembling works on new machinery and installations in the mines - by 70%.

(i) The care for a reasonable exploitation of coal reserves requires the introduction on a wider scale of the practice of filling the places which have been exploited with sand (Podsadzka Piynna), which enables proper exploitation of thick seams and secures the surface from the effects of the mining work and from leaving unexploited coal in those places.

(j) To improve the quality of coal destined for domestic use and for export, through enlargement and modernization of mechanical processing works in which coal is sorted and cleaned.

(k) To develop research work on the chemical properties of Polish coal with the view to a rational utilization of this raw material as energetic fuel as well as the basis of many branches of chemical industry (this will lead to the selection of appropriate coking mixtures and utilization of gas- and flame-coal for semi-coking; a rational selection of mixtures will enable the improvement of coke for foundry and casting works).

(l) To increase the production of brown coal and to create a central base of its utilization as energetic raw material in big power stations and chemical plants for the organic and pharmaceuitical industry.

8. "A special effort is directed to mechanization investments in the coal mines of the Rybnik valley, where eight filling (Podsadz-Kowe) installations are under construction, and the first sector with electric traction is being built on the Bledow Sand Railway Line. (Bledowska Magistrala Piaskowa.) Preparations are also being made for the construction of new mines of coking coal in the southern part of Rybnik valley. The construction of a new mining valley is planned west of Krakow and south of Upper Vistula. Geological exploitation in this area proved the existence there of large reserves of high grade coal. The exploitation of brown coal is planned on a wider scale in Central Poland.

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9. "The following mines have been put into operation, or basically reconstructed, or are under construction:

(a) Julian - is to be fully mechanized and electrified. Minister Minc, at the Second Party Congress, announced that this mine will be opened in 1954.

(b) Jiscuyszji-Nowa: reconstruction on a large scale of an old pre-World War II mine (Jaworzno valley) which was closed in 1938 - amounts practically to the construction of a new mine. Is to be fully mechanized with Soviet mining equipment. At the end of 1952 13 km of new corridors and 4 km of tunnels were ready. The mine was to be put into operation in 1953.

(c) Nowy Wirek - on the site of the old Wirek mine, was to be opened in 1953. Opening of new levels is to double the production of the former mine. The method of liquid filling - with sand - of exploited places (Podsadzka Plynna) is introduced in the exploitation. A great sand reservoir is built on the surface, to be supplied by Bledow Sand Railway line.

(d) Rokitnica II was to be put into operation in 1953. In June that year the main shaft Gigant was nearing completion. The sorting hall is fully mechanized and operated by central control. The full capacity will exceed six thousand tons per day.

(e) Wesoła II was put into operation in 1952 and the first mine under the Six-Year Plan. Daily output in 1952 was 900 tons; in 1953 it was planned at 1,900 tons; full capacity is to be 6,500 tons per day.

(f) Ziemowit II put into operation in Dec 1952 as second after Rokitnica. The transport of coal to the surface is to be mechanized 100% and loading 80%. The sorting hall is to be fully mechanized, operated by a central control (one woman worker). Planned output for 1953 was two thousand tons daily on the average; full capacity - more than six thousand tons daily.

(g) Gliwice: the construction of this mine was started under the Six-Year Plan, but its completion will take place under the next plan in 1958.

Open-cast mines:

10. "(a) Kasia - put into operation in spring 1953. The coal layers are very shallow and located near the surface. It is expected that exploitation will be completed in four years, and later the area will be turned over to agricultural production.

(b) Zagisza - was not included in the original Six-Year Plan as the decision to open it was taken only at the end of 1951, and exploitation was to be started about Dec 1953. The deposits lie very near the surface and are estimated at about 10 million tons. With a daily output of three thousand tons, they will last for about 10 years (full capacity is to be achieved in summer 1954).

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Brown Coal:

11. "Marantow, district of Konin: open-cast mine with a briquette plant which was opened by the Germans. At present a new, larger mine and a new briquette plant are under construction. The brown coal deposits are rather deep and cover an area of several square kilometers; it is estimated that they will last for a hundred years or more, even with very intensive exploitation. In 1946-47, a new section, presumably for chemical processing of brown coal, was added to the former briquette plant. The coalfields are located northeast of Konin, on the right bank of the river Warta, - between the localities Nieslusz (in the south) and Maliniec (in the north). The exploitation is being developed towards the east.

12. "Regarding coal of coking quality indispensable for steel production, deposits are found in two areas:

(a) Dabrowa and Krakow at the border of Upper Silesia and Kracow county; larger deposits are located near Dabrowa.

(b) Walbrzych, south of Wroclaw, Coking coal from that area is of better quality than from Dabrowa Krakow area, but its deposits are smaller.

Production of Coke

13. "The figures of the Six-Year Plan reveal that Poland intends not only to become completely self-sufficient in coke supplies but also to remain a coke exporter. Statistics in this respect indicate that a great effort is being made in this direction.

14. "In 1939 Poland possessed nine coking plants either independent or connected with foundries. Her own production of coke in 1937 brought 2.1 million tons. In the Recovered Territories, Poland gained 11 new coking plants whose production in 1937 was 3.3 million tons.

15. "On the entire territory of present Poland the production of coke since 1945 was as follows:

- 1945 - 1,100 thousand tons
- 1946 - 3,575 thousand tons
- 1949 - 5,751 thousand tons (last year of Three-Year Plan)
- 1950 - 5,974 thousand tons
- 1951 - 6,332 thousand tons
- 1952 - 7,340 thousand tons
- 1953 -12,800 thousand tons (target - last year of Six-Year Plan).

16. "To achieve the above target, reconstruction and modernization of old or damaged coking plants and construction of new ones is to be carried out. The results of this effort towards the end of 1953, were as follows:

(a) Czestochowa - coking plant under construction now, will produce coke for big ovens of the new Czestochowa foundry (Bierut foundry). The plant will be equipped with four modern coke oven batteries, with a capacity of 900 tons per day each. With the plant, a factory for chemical processing of coal will be established.

(b) Gliwice - in the existing coking plant, two new coke oven batteries were installed in April and November 1951, making a total number of five. The plant is still being enlarged. Daily output is 2,200 tons of coke.

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(c) Kosciuszko foundry, in Chorzow. This foundry had a small coking plant, equipped with two coke oven batteries and producing 800 tons per day. This plant is now being reconstructed into an entirely new, big factory which will be one of the largest of its sort in Poland. At the beginning of 1953 the new plant was to achieve its full capacity of 4,400 tons per day which would satisfy the requirements of coke for the foundry's big ovens. Two new, large, coke oven batteries (capacity 900 tons per day each), of Czechoslovak production, were installed in Feb and May 1952, and the third one was under construction; in spring 1953 earth works for the installation of a fourth battery were begun. A factory for the processing of by-products of coke was partly put into operation in 1952. It is also planned to start chemical processing of slag from the big ovens.

(d) Makoszowy, near Zabrze. A coking plant existed there, with four coke oven batteries. In autumn 1951 two more, modern batteries were installed which raised the plant's output by 115% (now - 2,500 tons per day).

(e) Nowa Huta. The coking plant which is under construction there is to be the largest in Poland, equipped with six big batteries each with the capacity of 900 tons per day. The plant will produce 5,400 tons per day of a special sort of hard coke for the big ovens of the local foundry from the mixture of different sorts of coal. There are, however, delays in the construction. Two first batteries were to be put into operation in the middle of 1953, but this was not achieved and the later plan was to open half of the plant, i.e. three batteries, until 1955. The plant will have a chemical factory for the processing of by-products of coal (tar, phenol, gas).

(f) Zdzieszowice - coking plant Zygmunt Sztab. This was an old German plant which was completely destroyed during World War II. The equipment of its section for processing of by-products was dismantled by the Soviet Army. After World War II the plant was reconstructed and its present daily production amounts to 2,500 tons. In Oct 1951 two modern coke oven batteries were put into operation. The plant has its factory for chemical processing of by-products producing, i.e., synthetic gasoline.

(g) Zygmunt factory - has a small coking plant producing 700 tons of coke per day and equipped with two batteries. This plant is under a complete reconstruction and modernization.

17. "Apart from these, there are in the framework of the Six-Year Plan two more coal-processing (semi-coking) plants which, however, are not connected with steel industry, as they are engaged in the processing of brown coal for the needs of the chemical industry. They are:

(a) Blachownia - the plant reconstructed and modernized after being destroyed during World War II. Semi-coking (dry distillation) ovens will produce fuel for generators. The factory for processing of by-products is connected with it. The first department of this factory, for the production of benzol, was opened in Aug 1952.

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(b) Konin: the construction of a semi-coking plant and factory for chemical processing of by-products was to be started in 1953.

18. "Altogether, the investments of the Six-Year Plan for the coking industry are to provide 16 new coke oven batteries (plants in Blachownia and Konin excluded).

19. "Apart from the above mentioned plants, the following foundries possess already, or are now constructing their own coke ovens:

(a) Bobrek foundry (Bytom) - three coke oven batteries
(b) Pokoj foundry (Nowy Bytom) - coke ovens satisfying the foundry's own needs, with installations for cleaning and de-sulphurizing of gas
(c) Florian foundry (Swietochlowice) - coke ovens
(d) Stolczyn foundry (Szczecin).

20. "The Six-Year Plan emphasizes the need for constructing - with coking plants, the installations for the processing of by-products, especially of ammonia, tar and benzol. The problem of sulphur content in coke is to be solved mainly by washing, but it has not been satisfactorily dealt with until now. Also, all coking plants are being supplied with installations for separating sulphur from the gas which is produced in the process of distillation.

21. "As regards the physical qualities of coke, the Six-Year Plan aims to raise its mechanical endurance by 30% and resistance against rubbing by 20%. It is indispensible to achieve this standard since the Polish foundry industry strives to the construction of blast furnaces with the capacity of 800-1,000 cubic meters.

22. "The plans also provide for the establishment of coke-sorting halls, with the purpose of eliminating small pieces (less than 25 mm) which lower the productive capacity of big ovens.

23. "One more principle adopted in coke plants working beside foundries is that coke is transported directly from the coking plant to the ovens without intermediary loading which may cause crumbling and rubbing of lumps and consequently decrease the heating quality of coke and productive capacity of ovens. Research work was also initiated on the coking distillation of low-grade coal; the results of this research are not known.

24. "Although in the light of theoretical statistics the Plan makes great progress in coking industry, the Polish foundries however are suffering a serious shortage of coke. According to the information in hand reserves of coke in Labędy foundry, or for that matter in Bierut foundry (Częstochowa) would not last longer than two days. This makes steel production very vulnerable.

25. "Coke exports: One of the reasons for such a state of affairs is export of coke carried on a rather large scale. In 1951 exports of Polish coke amounted to one million tons. In 1953 they came up to 1.5 million tons. East Germany and the USSR are the greatest importers. In 1951, Poland exported 500,000 tons of coke to East Germany, and in 1953 even more. Besides, Poland exports some smaller quantities of coke to Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary, Egypt, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Italy."

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